

**MEDITATIONS,
AND
FAMILY PRAYERS.**

**BY
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BISHOP OF SODOR AND MAN.

**RETFORD :
PRINTED BY J. TAYLOR.**

1798.

WILLIAMSON

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OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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MORNING AND EVENING

PRAYERS, &c.

A SEASONABLE INSTRUCTION.

PUBLIC and Private Prayers, and Thanksgivings, are an homage and duty which all men owe to God as their Creator, their Lord and King; and by which they are to acknowledge their obedience to, and their dependance upon him, for life, and breath, and all things which they enjoy or hope for.

This therefore God hath made our indispensable duty: and it will be a downright rebellion for any man to refuse this homage any day of his life;—the wilful neglect of this being, in effect, to disown his power over us, his goodness to help us in our necessities, and his justice to punish such as transgress his commands; and to question the faithfulness of his promise to pardon the truly penitent sinner, and to reward all such as sincerely strive to please him.

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This neglect and disobedience is very often punished by God's leaving them to themselves, and to their own wicked ways; which ever did, and ever will end in their ruin—very often in this world, but always in the world to come, without a Miracle of Grace, which such sinners have no reason to hope for.

The cause of which is plain:—The constant and wilful omission of this duty is a sure way to lose the knowledge and remembrance of God, of his Word and Promises: And then men will have no motives to fear or to love God, nor any reason to hope for any good from him.

It will also very naturally lead such people to depend upon themselves only; to forget their own sad condition and misery; that they are liable to God's wrath, and even to damnation;—which knowledge is necessary, and for this end was revealed, even to awaken and humble sinners, that, by a true repentance, they may escape the bitter pains of eternal misery.

Now, the Spirit of God threatens, that such as will not retain God in their knowledge (which can be done only by praying to him daily) shall be given up by God to a reprobate mind, that is to a mind void of judgment; to do what is right in their own eyes, let what will follow.

And the event will certainly be this:—They will fall under the power and government of Satan and his evil angels, who will lead them as he did the Heathen World, to commit all iniquity with greediness, till they are fit for no place but Hell.

Now, if these be Truths of the Gospel, as most surely they are, one would hope, there would need no other words to persuade every one who is in his right mind, and not already in the sad condition before-mentioned, to beg of God to keep him, by his grace, from falling into such dreadful circumstances.

The most sure way to avoid it is,—To dedicate some
time

time every day of our lives to the Worship of God ; humbly to acknowledge our dependance upon Him ; to confess our own weakness to help and govern ourselves ; to beg pardon for having offended him ; to pray for his grace, and protection, and blessing ;—and to give Him thanks for his mercies and favours to us.

By doing this, we shall retain God in our knowledge :—This will be a true and solid foundation of peace, and comfort, and happiness,—provided it be performed out of a deep sense of our own wants and miseries, with a firm faith in God's promises to fulfil the desires of them that fear him, and with an eye to the blood of Jesus our Redeemer, for whose sake, and through whose suffering, we are reconciled to God, and God to us.

The following Devotions will direct those who stand in need of such helps, what to pray for every Morning and Evening of their lives. Not but that every serious Christian will find occasion to ask many more favours and blessings, than can be set down in any Form of Prayer whatever.

For this reason there are added, some short Instructions, as also some proper Texts of Holy Scriptures with short Meditations upon them, to help the devotion of such as are well-disposed, and also to lead them into a way of profiting at all times by the Holy Scripture, heard or read by them or others, which we all too often hear without being bettered by them.

*The Duty and Benefit of MORNING PRAYER for any
Person in private.*

VERY many are the evil consequences of going without God into a world full of temptations and dangers, which of ourselves we can neither foresee nor escape. Whoever considers this, and the infinite mischiefs which may follow, will never venture abroad without praying for God's *Guidance, Protection, and Blessing*, every Morning of his life,

MORNING PRAYER

For a Person in private.

WHAT shall I render unto the Lord, for his Mercies renewed unto me every Morning?

I will offer the Sacrifice of Thanksgiving, and pay my vows unto the Most High.

And may God accept of my most hearty thanks for my preservation and refreshment, and for all the blessings of the night past, and of my life past!

Possess my soul, gracious God, with such a sense of this thy goodness, and of my dependance upon Thee, for *Life, and Health, and Prosperity, and Comfort*, that it may be my delight, as it is my duty and interest, to serve and obey Thee.

And that I may do this with a quiet mind, forgive me the sins of which my conscience is afraid, and avert the judgments which I have justly deserved.

Give me grace, that I may continue in thy fear all the day long; and that I may live and act as having
Thee,

Private and Family Prayers, &c. 7.

Thee, O God, the constant witness of my conduct; and that it may be the purpose of my soul never to offend Thee wilfully.

May thy restraining grace preserve me from the temptations of an evil world, from the frailty and corruption of my own nature, and from the evil principles and practices of the age we live in!

Possess my heart with a sincere love for Thee, and for all Mankind; and grant that I may have this comfortable and sure proof of thy love abiding in me, that I study to please Thee, and to keep thy commandments.

Give me a tender compassion for the wants and miseries of my neighbour, that Thou may'st have compassion upon me, O God.

In all my ways I do acknowledge Thee. Do Thou, O Lord, direct my paths, and teach me to guide my affairs, my designs, my words and actions, with charity, discretion, justice, and piety.

Shew me the way that I should walk in, and give me grace to follow the conduct of thy good Spirit, that I may do my duty in that state of life in which thy Providence has placed me.

Let me ever remember, *that the night cometh when no man can work*; and that now is the time in which to provide for eternity.

Grant, gracious God, that no worldly pleasures, no worldly business, may ever make me lose the sight of death, or forget the dangers that surround me.

Fill my heart with the dread of the punishments prepared for impenitent sinners, and my soul with a sense of the blessings which will be the sure reward of all them that love Thee, and obey thy laws.

Hear me, O Heavenly Father, not according to my imperfect petitions, but according to the full meaning of that Holy Prayer, which thy beloved Son hath taught us :—

8 *Private and Family Prayers, &c.*

Our Father, which art in Heaven; Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily Bread. And forgive us our Trespases, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into Temptation; but deliver us from Evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

The Duty and Benefit of EVENING PRAYER.

SLEEP, said a great man, is so like death, that I dare not trust it without saying my Prayers.

And indeed, for fear of the worst, a thoughtful Christian will take care to make his peace with God before he goes to sleep; and put himself under God's protection every Evening of his Life, that he may be safe from fear of evil.

EVENING PRAYER

For a Person in private.

THAT it hath pleased Thee, O God, to add another day to the years of my life, and to keep me from the dangers of an evil world:—For these, and for all thy mercies from day to day bestowed upon me, I bleſs thy good and gracious Providence, most earnestly beseeching Thee to pardon my offences of the day past, and to grant that they may never rise up in judgment against me.

Lord,

Private and Family Prayers, &c. 9

Lord, the frailty of man, without Thee, cannot but fall: In all temptations, therefore, I beseech Thee, to succour me, that no sin may ever get the dominion over me.

Give me a salutary dread of the corruption of my own heart:—make me truly sensible of the end of sin, and mindful of my own infirmities and backslidings.

Vouchsafe unto all sinners a true sense of their unhappy state, a fear of thy judgments, and grace and strength to break their bonds.

Enlighten my soul with saving truth. Correct me in mercy, and reduce me when I go astray. Make me ever mindful of my latter end, and fix in my heart a lively sense of the happiness and misery of the world to come.

May the thoughts of death mortify in me all pride and covetousness, and a love for this world; and may my firm belief of a judgment to come make me ever careful to please Thee, my Lord and Judge, that I may find mercy at that day!

Grant that I may lie down to sleep with the same charitable and forgiving temper, in which I desire and hope to die.

And may the Almighty God take me, and all that belong to me, under his gracious and powerful protection! May he give his Angels charge concerning us, and keep us in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

St. John xvi. 23. *Verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you.*

In thy Name, O Jesus, and in the full meaning of the words which Thou hast taught us, I pray God, for thy sake, to hear me, and to give me what is most convenient for me:—

Our Father, which art in Heaven; &c.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c.

ANOTHER

ANOTHER
MORNING PRAYER

For a Person in private.

BLESSED be the Lord for his mercies renewed unto me every morning; for my Preservation and Refreshment, and for all the blessings of the night past;—for which all thanks and glory be to Thee, my God and Father!

Gracious God, continue to me these, and all other thy blessings, so long, and in such a measure, as shall be most for thy glory and my salvation.

Possess my soul I beseech Thee, with a true and saving faith, and with such a sense of thy goodness to me, and of my dependance upon Thee, that it may be my delight, as it is my interest and duty, to serve and obey Thee.

But that I may serve Thee with a quiet mind, forgive me all my sins, I beseech Thee, for thy dear Son's sake, and withhold the judgments of which my conscience is afraid.

Keep it ever in the heart of thy servant, that it is an evil thing and bitter to *forsake and offend the Lord*. And above all things, *keep me from wilful and deliberate sins*; that I may never grieve thy Holy Spirit, nor provoke Thee to leave me to myself.

Let thy restraining grace preserve me from the temptations of the *world*, the *flesh*, and the *Devil*; that I may fall into no sin, nor run into any kind of danger; but that all my doings may be ordered by Thee, that I may do always that which is righteous in thy sight: And that I may live and act as having Thee, O God, the constant witness of all my thoughts, designs, words, and actions.

May

May I never render myself, by new sins, unworthy of thy guidance and protection!

Suffer me not to go astray, or bring me back by such ways as to Thee shall seem meet.

May I love Thee with all my heart, and all mankind for thy sake!—And may I ever have this sure proof of thy love abiding in me, that I study to please Thee, and to keep thy commandments!—And that I may forgive and love, and do good to my neighbours as becomes a Disciple of Jesus Christ!

Assist me by thy grace, faithfully to perform all the duties of my calling; and thankfully to receive, and patiently to bear, whatever thy providence shall order for me.

Preserve me from an *idle and useless* life; ever remembering, *that the Night cometh when no man can work*;—and that *now* is the time in which to provide for eternity:

And grant, O Lord, that no worldly pleasure, no worldly business, may ever make me lose the sight of death.

And may the thoughts of death oblige me to be truly and sincerely good;—to mortify all *Pride and Vanity, Covetousness, Hatred, Envy, and Malice*;—to be *serious, sober, and watchful*, while I may continue in this state of trial.

Hear me, O heavenly Father, not according to my imperfect petitions; but according to the full meaning of that holy Prayer, which thy beloved Son hath taught us, in compassion to our infirmities:—

Our Father, which art in Heaven; &c.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c.

Some short MEDITATIONS for such as are well-disposed, and have time to spare.

John xvi. 23. *Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my Name, he will give it you.*

EVERY thing is promised to this duty, when we pray as we ought to do; that is, in the Name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, out of a sense of our own wants and miseries, with the *humility* of sinful creatures, and with a full purpose of doing what we know will please God.

O Lord, vouchsafe me these dispositions, that I may never ask Thee any thing in vain, or render myself unworthy to receive thy blessings.

1 Cor. xv. 33. *Evil Communications corrupt good Manners.*

No man must say, that he has any respect for God, or fear for himself, who chooseth the conversation of wicked men. Their idle and profane discourses will leave evil impressions upon the mind. Their indecent freedoms with the name of God, and things sacred, will lessen the reverence we owe to the Divine Majesty. Their filthy and lewd talk will destroy modesty, and every grace and virtue; and will not fail to wear off the thoughts and fears of what may come hereafter. May thy Grace, O God, keep me from a conversation so displeasing to Thee, and so destructive to the souls of men; grant this, for Christ's sake!

Peter i. 17. *Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.*

Give me, O God, this most necessary and most useful fear and dread of the unfaithfulness of my own heart. Make me ever mindful of my infirmities and failings,
that

Short Meditations.

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that I may be more watchful over myself, and more earnest in my prayers for the help of thy grace for the time to come.

Prov. iii. 5, 6. *Lean not unto thy own Understanding; in all thy Ways acknowledge God, and he shall direct thy Paths.*

Do Thou, O God, direct my paths, and teach me to guide my affairs with *Charity, Discretion, Justice, and Piety*. Shew me the way that I should walk in, and give me grace to follow the conduct of thy good Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ.



ANOTHER

ANOTHER
EVENING PRAYER

For a Person in private.

O Most gracious and merciful God I give Thee thanks that it has pleased Thee to add another day to the years of my life, and that none of thy judgments, to which for my sins I am justly liable, have fallen upon me.

Accept, O Lord, of my unfeigned thanks for this thy constant care over me; for delivering me from the dangers of an evil world; and for the many undeserved blessings bestowed upon me day after day.

Blessed be thy goodness, that my sins and ingratitude have not prevented Thee from bringing me safe to the evening of this day!

O God, infinite in mercy, pardon my sins of the day past, whether in thought, word, or deed, which I have committed through the fraud and malice of the devil, or through my own weakness and frailty: And grant that they may never rise up in judgment against me.

Prepare me, I beseech Thee, for the continuance of thy favours, by giving me the grace of a true repentance, and a thorough amendment of life.

Make me truly sensible of the weakness and corruption of my nature; and the need I have of thy gracious help, that I may pray for it continually.

May I ever make a right use of the time which thy goodness shall yet vouchsafe me and dare not to abuse thy patience and long-suffering.

Make me ever sensible of my *latter end*, that death may not take me unprepared. And in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment, good Lord, deliver me.

O God

O God all-powerful, take me this night under thy protection:—Preserve me from the powers of darkness, and from the dangers of the night:—And by thy grace and providence, bring me at last through all the trials and temptations of this world to a blessed end; that I may die in peace, and rest in hope, and rise in glory, through Jesus Christ; in whole name, and according to the full meaning of that holy prayer which he hath taught us, I most humbly beseech Thee to hear me, for myself, and for all Christian people:—

Our Father, which art in Heaven; &c.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c.

SHORT MEDITATIONS FOR SUCH AS HAVE TIME,
AND ARE WELL-DISPOSED.

Eph. iv. 26. *Let not the Sun go down upon your wrath.*

LORD, grant that I may lie down to sleep with the same charitable dispositions with which I desire to die. I beseech Thee for all that are my enemies, not for judgment and vengeance, but for *thy mercy*, for their pardon and conversion, and for their eternal happiness.

Heb. iii. 7, 8. *To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

This is the day, and this the life, in which God speaks to us in mercy. Lord, grant that I may not harden my heart against this truth; nor let me slip this day of thy patience; that neither the cares nor the pleasures of this life may ever make me forget, that this is the day on which my salvation depends, so far, that I know not whether I shall have another.

Rev. iii. 3. *Thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.*

Let me give credit to Thee, O God, Lord of Truth, and not to my own corrupt heart, which would flatter me, that I may have time and warning sufficient to prepare for death! But give me grace, O Lord, to be prepared for that *unknown hour*, by a speedy repentance, a true conversion, and an holy life.

Matth. xvi. 26. *What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*

How many live without thinking of this!—We admire and we envy, those who get great estates for themselves and for their children; making their riches their delight, their happiness, and the whole concern and business of their lives.

Lord, deliver thy servant from such a blindness as may end in my everlasting ruin, and the loss of my soul, for which the whole world cannot make me amends.

Luke xiii. 7, 8 *Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig-tree, and find none. Cut it down: Why cumbereth it the ground?—Lord, let it alone this year also: If it bear fruit well; if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.*

I adore thy wonderful patience, O God, towards me; and thy merciful intercession, O Jesus, with thy Father, for sparing me. May this goodness & long-suffering lead me to repentance: And may thy all-powerful grace enable me to bring forth fruits meet for repentance, and worthy of thy future care.

MORNING PRAYER

For a Family.

Josh. xxiv. 15. *As for me and my House we will serve the Lord.*

THIS ought to be the sincere resolution and constant practice of every Christian Master of a Family. Without this, none can reasonably expect to have dutiful children or faithful servants; nor justly hope to have God's blessing in this world, or in the world to come.

Let some one of the Family devoutly read or say what followeth, the rest seriously attending.

THE Lord hath brought us safe to the beginning of this day; Let us give him thanks for this, and for all his mercies.

Let us pray, that we may live in the fear of God; and continue in love and charity with our neighbours:

That his Holy Spirit may direct and rule our hearts, teaching us what to do and what to avoid:

That the Grace of God may ever be with us, to support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations:

That the Lord may bless all our honest endeavours, and make us content with what his providence shall order for us:

And that we may continue his faithful servants this day, and all the days of our life.

For all which blessings let us devoutly pray.

Then all devoutly kneeling, let one say,

O Most gracious and merciful God, by whom the world is governed and preserved, we give Thee humble thanks for thy fatherly care over us; in preserv-

ing us from the dangers of the night past, and in bringing us safe this morning to see another day.

We gratefully acknowledge our dependance upon Thee for all the *necessaries, conveniences, and comforts* of our life; for all the means of our *well-being here*, and of our everlasting happiness *hereafter*.

We give Thee thanks for the light of thy Gospel, and the help of thy Grace, and for the promise Thou hast made us of pardon and forgiveness through thy Son Christ Jesus, on our sincere repentance and amendment.

Give us we beseech Thee, such a sense of these and all thy other mercies to us, as may make us truly thankful to Thee for them.

Give us grace that we may ever walk as in thy sight; make a conscience of all our ways; and fearing to offend Thee, may never fall into the sins we have repented of.

Enable us to resist and overcome the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the Devil; to follow the motions of thy good Spirit; to be serious and holy in our lives, true and just in our dealings; watchful over our thoughts, our words, and our actions; diligent in our business, and temperate in all things.

Give us grace honestly to improve all the talents which Thou hast committed to our trust: And may no *worldly business, no worldly pleasures*, divert us from the concerns of the life to come!

May thy blessing be upon our persons, upon our labours, upon our substance, and upon all that belongs to us; and may we never undertake any work, which we dare not beg of Thee to prosper!

May thy grace defend us in all assaults of our enemies:—And grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that which is righteous in thy sight.

Give us, gracious God, what is needful for us, and grace not to abuse thy favours. Give us, we beseech Thee, contented minds; and make us ever mindful of the wants of others.

Give us, in this world, the knowledge of thy truths; and in the world to come, life everlasting. Amen.

Hear us, O merciful God, not according to our imperfect petitions, but according to the full meaning of that form of prayer which Jesus Christ hath taught us, and for his sake:—

Our Father, which art in Heaven; &c.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. &c.

PROPER MEDITATIONS FOR SUCH AS HAVE TIME,
AND ARE DEVOTELY DISPOSED.

Psal. cxxvii. 1. Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.

UNHAPPY and blind are they, who expect to prosper without thy blessing, O Lord. I do therefore beg that blessing upon myself and family, my labours and substance. And may I never hinder thy blessings, by undertaking any work which may dishonour Thee, or my Christian profession! Fit us, O Lord, by thy grace, for that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, prepared for them that love and fear Thee.

Hab. ii. 9. Woe to him that coveteth an Evil Covetousness to his House; that he may set his Nest on high, that he may be delivered from the Power of Evil.

Deliver us, O God, from covetousness, the root of all evil; which leads men to trust in themselves; to forget

their dependance upon Thee; and foolishly to hope to be out of the reach of misfortunes, and those evils and afflictions, which are designed, in great mercy, for the punishment of sin, and for the salvation of sinners. Preserve us, O Lord, from this too common, but damnable sin of covetousness, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Luke xvii. 26, &c. As it was in the days of Noah and of Lot.—They did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;—till the day that Lot went out of Sodom, when they were all destroyed.

Lord, open our eyes before we are surprised by death, as those miserable sinners were in days of Noah and of Lot. May this be a warning to us!—And keep us, by thy grace, from setting our hearts too eagerly upon the business, the cares or pleasures, of this life, without considering how soon and suddenly we may be called out of it; and that day overtake us unawares.

Col. iv. 1. Masters, give unto your Servants that which is just and equal, knowing that ye also have a Master in Heaven.

O Heavenly Master, bless me with good and faithful servants: And grant that I may perform, all the duties of a Christian Master;—that I may have a tender concern for the welfare both of their bodies and souls; and be an example to them of sobriety, justice, and piety; and that we may be an household fearing God. And may thy blessing be upon them, and upon all my affairs committed to their trust, for the sake of thy beloved Son.

PARENTS for CHILDREN.

Ephes. vi. 4. Ye Parents, bring up your Children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for his sake, bless my Children with healthful bodies, and understanding souls, and sanctified hearts, that they may remember their Creator all their days. Let thy Grace preserve them from the temptations of an evil world; and may I never be wanting in any part of my duty to them, but instruct them in the Faith and Duties of a Christian Life;—convince them, of their faults, and correct them in reason and love. Be Thou, O God, their Father and Portion in this world, and in the world to come! *Amen.*

EVENING PRAYER

For a Family.

Let one of the Family read or say distinctly what followeth, the rest seriously attending.

By the favour of God, we are come to the evening of this day; and we are so much nearer our latter end.

Let us seriously consider this, and pray God to prepare us for the hour of death:

Let us with penitent hearts beseech him to pardon our offences, and to deliver us from the evils which they have deserved:

Let us resolve to amend whatever we have done amiss, and pray God that his grace may keep us from returning to those sins which we have repented of:

And

And that we may be safe under his protection, who alone can defend us from the Powers of Darknels.

For all which blessings let us devoutly pray.

Then, all devoutly kneeling, let one distinctly say,

O LORD, and Heavenly Father, we acknowledge thy great goodness to us, in sparing us when we deserve punishment;—in giving us the necessaries of this life, and in setting before us the happiness of a better.

O merciful God, pardon our offences, correct and amend what is amiss in us; that as we grow in years, we may grow in grace, and the nearer we come to our latter end, the better we may be prepared for it.

In the midst of life we are in death.

Lord, grant that these thoughts may make us careful how we live, that we may escape the bitter pains of eternal misery.

Take from us all ignorance, hardness of heart, and too much carelessness for the things of this life.

Make us an household fearing Thee, O God, submitting ourselves to thy good pleasure, and putting our whole trust in thy mercy.

Give us a true knowledge of ourselves, of the corruption of our nature, and the necessity of thy gracious help to save us from ruin.

And may the Spirit of Christ ever live and rule in us, possessing our souls with a sincere love of Thee, O God; with an earnest desire to please Thee, and with a dread of offending Thee!

Sanctify us wholly, we beseech Thee, that our spirits, and souls, and bodies, may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Continue to us, and to all Christian Churches, the means

means of grace and salvation: And may the saving truths of the Gospel be published and received in all the world!

Vouchsafe unto us an interest in all the prayers of thy Holy Church, which have this day been offered to the Throne of Grace.

Forgive all that have injured us, and forgive us our many offences against our neighbour.

Bless, we beseech Thee, O God, all those whom thy providence hath set over us, whether in Church or State: And give us grace to honour and obey them for conscience sake.

Defend us from all adversities which may happen to our bodies, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt our souls;—and prepare us to receive with an humble resignation whatever thy providence shall think best for us.

And, finally, we beseech Thee to give us grace, that we may lead and end our lives in thy faith and fear, and to thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear us, O merciful God, for ourselves and for all mankind, not according to our weak understandings but according to the full meaning of that holy prayer, which thy beloved Son has taught us:—

Our Father, which art in Heaven; &c.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c.

SELECT SCRIPTURES, AND MEDITATIONS.

Matth. x. 30. *The very Hairs of your Head are all numbered.*

LET this thy wonderful Providence, O God, and care over us, be evermore our comfort and defence against all the evils which may happen to our bodies, and all evil thoughts, which may assault and hurt our souls;—against the distracting cares of this life;—and against the fears and adversities which may befall us. Thine infinite *Wisdom* knows all our wants and dangers, and the properest means of conveying relief and succour to us;—thy fatherly *Goodness* cannot but pity us;—thy *Power* is able to help us;—and thy *Faithfulness* can never fail us. Oh! may we never render ourselves unworthy of this thy divine protection.

Luke ix. 23. *Jesus said to them all. If any Man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his Cross daily, and follow me.*

O Jesus, who hast made this the rule and means of our salvation, enable us by thy Spirit, thy Doctrine, and Example, to observe it daily;—to wean our hearts from a love and fondness for this world, its pleasures, profits, and all its idols;—to mortify our corrupt affections, and to correct and amend what is amiss in us;—that we may be meek and humble, and temperate, and learn to submit our wills to the will and law of God. And grant, O Lord, that we may never lead heathens and unbelievers to have unworthy thoughts of Thee, and of thy religion, by our ungodly lives, while we pretend to be thy followers.

Luke xiii. 24. *Strive to enter in at the strait Gate; for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.*

May we never flatter ourselves, that the way to heaven
and

and happiness is easy, and that the generality of christian people are in the way of salvation, when Thou hast declared the contrary. O may thy Spirit convince us, that our salvation is not to be secured without great watchfulness and care, without labour, pains, and diligence;—and that, on these conditions, thy goodness will enable us to overcome all the difficulties we can possibly meet with.

Luke xi. 13. *If ye, being evil, know how to give good Gifts unto your Children; how much more shall your Heavenly Father give [good things, and] his Holy Spirit, to them that ask him?*

O Heavenly Father, let it be unto us, according to this thy Son's most faithful promise. For his sake, give us thy Holy Spirit, to live and act in us, to guide and assist us all our days; and may we ever ask and be content with such good things as it shall please Thee to give us. And grant that we may never grieve thy Holy Spirit, never reject his godly motions, or render ourselves unworthy of his abode with us, by living in any known sin.

Rev. iii. 19. *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.*

O! that we may acknowledge thy loving kindness to us, in all the dispensations of thy Providence! Our corrupt nature will not let us see this: it is thy grace alone which must convince us, that a Father so good would not suffer afflictions to fall upon his children without an absolute necessity.—Convince us, therefore, O God, that we may stand in need of thy rebukes, to awaken and amend us:—And enable us to bear all the afflictions of this life with patience, and an entire resignation to thy wisdom and goodness, and make them powerful means of our eternal salvation. *Amen.*

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ANOTHER
MORNING PRAYER

For a Family.

O GOD. by whom the world is governed and preserved, we give Thee humble thanks for thy fatherly care over us, beseeching Thee to make us truly sensible of all thy mercies, and thankful for them.

We are indeed unworthy of thy favours, for we have broken thy laws, neglected thy commands, despised thy promises, and have been unthankful for thy blessings.

Lord, be merciful unto us, and forgive us those things whereof our consciences are afraid; make us every day more careful of our ways, more concerned to please Thee, more sensible of our wants and unworthiness, and of thy great goodness, that we may ever be afraid to offend Thee; that we may ever look up to Thee for what we want; depend upon thy power, and goodness and truth, and be satisfied with what thy providence shall order for us.

And blessed be thy Holy Spirit, who hath made known to us the things that would undo us; who hath assured us, that no *adulterer*, no *covetous person*; that none who *envieth* his neighbour, or *defraudeth* his brother; that no *drunkard* or *profane person*, who liveth in a wilful neglect of thy laws, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

Lord, increase our knowledge, and confirm our faith, that we, stedfastly believing thy threats and judgments, may be truly afraid of them, and abhor those sins which would bring them upon us.

O Lord, leave us not unto ourselves, for without Thee we can do nothing that is good. To Thee therefore we look up for grace to know our duty, for willing minds to desire to do it; for strength to perform what Thou requirest of us, and that Thou wilt mercifully pardon our infirmities, and accept of our unworthy service.

Give,

Give, O Lord, thy good Angels charge over us, that neither the devil nor his wicked instruments, neither the world nor its vanities; that neither evil customs, nor the evil bent of our own hearts, may bring upon us those miseries which may make our lives uncomfortable: But if afflictions are necessary, and if in thy wise providence Thou shalt think fit to visit us, give us grace that we may thankfully receive, and patiently bear, whatever thy hand shall bring upon us, stedfastly believing, that all things shall work together for good to those that fear God, and trust in his mercy.

Bless all our honest endeavours with good success; continue to us the blessings we already enjoy; make every condition of life, every blessing we receive, every thing that befalleth us, a means of bringing us nearer unto Thee, and to that happiness which Thou hast prepared for them that love Thee.

Give us grace that we may never forget that we depend upon Thee;—that we may never trust in ourselves, nor in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who hath graciously promised that he will never fail them that seek him.—Lord, let it be unto thy servants according to this word.

Continue to us the means of grace, thy Word, and Sacraments; the comfort of solemn assemblies; the blessing of a regular, learned, and pious ministry; and let none of these favours be lost upon us; but grant that we may grow in grace, and in all saving knowledge, until we come to thine everlasting kingdom.

Bless the King and government of this land. Let brotherly love and charity increase amongst us, and root out all growing vices. Supply the necessities of the poor and needy; help and comfort the afflicted, the fatherless and the widow; deliver or support all that labour under any pressing calamity, sadness of spirit, or infirmity of body, and especially all such as suffer for a righteous cause.

Preserve all that travel by land or sea ; bless the labours of all honest men ; and hear our prayers for all that desire or that stand in need of them, and especially for those that cannot pray for themselves.

The Lord bless, preserve, and keep us this day, and all that belongs to us ; the Lord make us innocent in our lives, useful in our generation, prudent in our behaviour, obedient to his laws, and thankful for his favours.

Vouchsafe us a share in the happiness of the next world ; and his blessed will be done for what shall befall us in this.

These things, and whatever else our necessities, our charity, or our duty, obligeth us to pray for, we most humbly beg in the name and in the words of our blessed Saviour :—

Our Father, which art in Heaven ; &c.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ &c.

To be added on Sunday Morning.

Be graciously present with all that this day meet to serve Thee ; bless the labours of those that watch for our souls ; and give us all grace to hear with attention to receive the word with meekness, and to serve the Lord with joyfulness and gladness of heart.

Teach us all things necessary to salvation ; enable us to understand and remember the sacred truths delivered to us, with full purpose of living accordingly, that our conversation may be holy, and our end everlasting life.

ANOTHER
EVENING PRAYER

For a Family.

O Almighty and everlasting God, for all the blessings we every day receive from thy bounty; for all the known, and for all the unobserved favours, deliverances, visitations, and graces of thy Holy Spirit; we bless thy good providence, beseeching Thee still to continue thy fatherly care over us, for we have no power to help ourselves. To Thee therefore we pray daily; to Thee we give thanks and praise; from Thee we expect and hope for the greatest blessings when we do well; and from Thee we fear the severest punishments when our deeds are evil.

God be merciful unto us, that have broken his laws, abused his patience, despised the means of grace, and resisted his good Spirit, making ourselves unworthy of the least of his mercies and liable to his just anger.

O Lord, make us to see the evil, and the danger of sin; that we may repent and turn to Thee with all our hearts, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance.

Pity our infirmities, and help us to overcome them; renew in us thy image daily, and keep us from forsaking Thee for the time to come, that death may never overtake us unprepared.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom; that we may consider in this our day the things that belong unto our peace, for we are ourselves ere long to die. O that we may live as we hope to die! that in the hour of death and in the day of judgment, our Lord may deliver us from the power of the devil, from the just reward of our sins, and from everlasting death.

If at any time we are in danger of forgetting Thee and our duty, reduce us by such ways as to Thee seems meet, and make us at all times obedient to thy gracious call, that the longer we live we may serve Thee more faithfully.

Deliver us, O God, from the sin that doth most easily beset us; from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; from all unprofitable and sinful thoughts; from lying lips and a deceitful tongue; from an uncharitable heart, and from an inconstant mind.

Let thy good spirit ever be with us, to direct and rule our hearts, keep us from falling, and to present us blameless before the presence of thy glory.

Let thy blessing, O Lord, be upon us, to defend us in all danger, and to comfort us in all adversities,

Take us under thy protection, defend us from the dangers of the night, from the prince and powers of darkness, from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, and keep us in perpetual peace and safety.

In mercy remember all that want those blessings we enjoy; all that want thy help, all that call to thee for succour.

Remember, O merciful God, our friends, our relations, and all thy servants, that they may be made partakers of the same blessings which we ask for ourselves.

And grant unto us all, that when we depart this life, we may dwell with Thee in life everlasting.

Hear us, O God, not according to our weak understandings, but according to the full meaning of that form of words, which Jesus Christ hath taught us:—

Our Father, which art in Heaven; &c.

To be added on Sunday Evening,

Blessed be God for this good day, and for the many opportunities of serving him. Grant, O Lord, that we may not receive thy grace in vain, but that we may live as becometh Christians who believe and hope for the joys of heaven.

Reward all that do us good, and especially all such as watch for our souls; grant that they may save themselves, and such as hear them, that both we and they may enjoy an everlasting sabbath, through the merits of Jesus Christ.

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MORNING PRAYER

For a Family.

ALmighty and eternal God! by whose good providence the whole world, as one family, is governed and preserved; we, the work of thy hands and part of thy care, being very sensible of thy goodness to us hitherto, are prostrate before Thee to implore thy mercy and protection for the time to come; most humbly beseeching Thee to pardon all our iniquities, which may hinder any of thy blessings from descending upon us.

We confess, O Lord, that our ingratitude and forgetfulness of Thee, to whom we owe all that we have or expect in this world, and all our hopes in the next, might justly provoke Thee to leave us to ourselves; but since Thou hast given us some sense of our faults, we do in all humility hope and beg, that Thou wilt give us thy pardon also for them, that they may never rise up in judgment against us.

D3

And

And we do not only ask for the pardon of our sins, but for thy grace and powerful assistance, that we may not for the time to come hazard thy favour and protection by our future wilful transgressions.

Accept, O Lord, of our vows, which we now renew before Thee, to renounce the Devil and all his works, to believe in Thee and to serve Thee faithfully all our days; and as Thou hast excited these holy desires and purposes in our hearts, so enable us to perform them constantly in the whole course of our lives.

And inasmuch as we are taught by thy holy word, that no *adulterer*, or *covetous person*: none who *envies* or *speaks evil* of his neighbour; none who *robs* or *defrauds* his brother; no *drunkard*, or *profane person*: none who neglects or despises thy law, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven:—In a deep sense of the extreme misery of being for ever banished from thy presence, we most earnestly beseech Thee to keep us from these and all other sins, which have such a dreadful consequence.

Give us leave, this day, to put ourselves into thy powerful protection; and give us grace, that with an humble confidence we may depend upon thy watchful providence, thy guidance and thy blessing.

And may the same good providence that has watched over us for our good the last night, by preserving us from dangers—by refreshing us with seasonable sleep—by awakening us this morning with souls sensible of these blessings;—May the same gracious God guard us this day from all evil and mischief, from all assaults of the world, the flesh, and the devil!

And seeing all men's labours are in vain without thy blessing, we beseech Thee to bless every one of us in our several places and callings. Prosper Thou the works of our hands upon us, and give us grace thankfully to accept of, and soberly to use, whatever we shall this day receive at thy hands; that we, owning Thee for our benefactor,
and

and making use of thy benefits according to thy wise design, may still continue to be partakers of thy favours and blessings.

Bless us at home and abroad; and grant that we may walk as in thy sight, making a conscience of our ways and, to the best of our knowledge, *dealing with others as we would be dealt with*; that by thy gracious favour, and our own endeavours, we may have prosperous success in all things that we shall undertake.

Give us grace that we may be innocent and harmless in our conversations, well pleased with the prosperity of all about us, and desirous of the good of all people; and especially that all mankind may love, honour, and obey Thee, the Lord of Heaven and Earth, whose name is excellent in all the world.

Bless these kingdoms wherein we live; continue, O Lord, thy gospel among us, and prosper this part of thy church, which is established here,

Bless the King and the Royal Family, that true religion may be maintained and encouraged by him, and justice administered by all those that act under his authority.

Bless all that travel by sea and land; and take into thy protection all orphans and widows, and all that suffer wrong.

Give health and strength to the sick and weak, and joy and comfort to the sorrowful and afflicted.

Remember not, Lord, our iniquities, nor the iniquities of our forefathers; but spare us, good Lord, and have patience with us, if perhaps we may at last bring forth such fruits as may become thy great care and long-suffering.

O that true religion pure and undefiled before God, that virtue and justice, and mercy, and brotherly kindness, and whatever else is praise-worthy, may so grow and flourish among us, that we may enjoy the blessing of peace which we daily pray for; that there may be no complaining in our streets.

And

And, good God, give us grace that we may never forget to praise thy infinite goodness for this, and all other blessings, which we have or shall receive at thy hands ; but let the sense of them create in us a true and lively faith and gratitude in all holy obedience.

And now we commend ourselves, our prayers, and all belonging to us, to Thee our Creator and Redeemer ; we are willing in every thing to be disposed of as Thou seest good, believing that Thou orderest all things for thy honour, and for the good of those that depend upon Thee, as we do for all the blessings of this day.

The same blessings we ask for our friends, for our relations, for all those from whom we have received any kindneffes, for all those that desire our prayers ; desiring those mercies for them which we should ask for ourselves were we in their condition.

These, and all other thy blessings, which Thou knowest better to give than we to ask ; vouchsafe (if it seem good to thy Majesty) to give us, for the worthiness of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose most blessed name and words we sum up our wants and petitions as he himself hath taught us, saying,

Our Father, which art in Heaven ; &c.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c.

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EVENING PRAYER

For a Family.

ALMIGHTY God and most merciful Father! we are here again prostrate before Thee, to acknowledge thy bounty and goodness to us the day past, to beg thy merciful protection this night, and to praise thy holy name for these and all other thy mercies from time to time bestowed upon us.

We confess, O God, and are heartily sorry for it, that we do not walk worthy of the great benefits which we constantly receive from thy good providence, nor make suitable returns for these vast blessings; and therefore we may justly fear lest Thou shouldst put a stop to the current of thy mercies to us.

But since Thou hast inspired us with a sense of our unworthiness, we do humbly hope for and depend upon thy pardon, and grace to do whatever thy good Spirit shall direct us to.

Pardon therefore, good Lord, whatever we have, this day past, offended in thought, or word, or deed, against Thee, or against our neighbour, for the merits of Jesus Christ.

Look upon us in much compassion, not for any thing in us, but for the love and respect which Thou bearest to him, in whom we verily believe Thou art fully reconciled to us.

Take away our sins, and the punishment due unto us for them.

Let thy wrath be turned from us, and destroy us not, together with our manifold transgressions. Be gracious unto us according to thy wonted goodness.

Thou

Thou who abhorrest nothing which Thou hast made, cast us not away from thy presence; take not thy Holy Spirit from us; but create in us new hearts, hearts fit to serve Thee; and write thy law in them, that all our desires, words, and actions, may be conformable to thy blessed will; and that every day we may be more sensible of thy mercy to us in making us better, the nearer Thou bringest us to our end; that after the few nights and days we have to pass in this world, we may come to thy eternal rest, together with Christ Jesus.

For the things of this life, in a most grateful remembrance of thy mercies hitherto vouchsafed to us, we do entirely trust Thee for the time to come, resolving by thy grace to be satisfied with whatever thy good providence shall assign us. Only this we are importunate for, and most humbly beseech Thee to grant, that we may all our days please Thee in a constant and zealous practice of piety and devotion, of righteousness and mercy, of temperance and chastity, of meekness, patience, truth, and fidelity, as may adorn the religion and name of our Lord and Master.

And grant, O merciful Father, that our friends, our relations, and all thy servants, may be sharers of the same mercies which we are now asking for ourselves.

May all the world acknowledge Thee; and as they are partakers of thy mercies, may they gratefully own Thee to be the sole Lord, Governor, and Benefactor, of all the earth.

To this end we most humbly pray for the conversion of Jews, Turks, and Heathens, to the truth;—for all Christians, that the weak may be supported, that they may be strengthened that stand, that they who are in error may be converted;—for the Churches throughout the world, that they may be united in religion;—for our's in particular, that whatever is amiss in it may be mended;—for the King's Majesty, and his prosperity—for all Christian kingdoms; for our's especially, and each part of it, that it may

may flourish in peace; for wisdom in the council, integrity in the judges, strength in our armies, discretion in our magistrates, and obedience in the people;—*for the Clergy*, that they may teach well, and that they may live well;—*for the prosperity and good success of all merchants, husbandmen, and tradesmen*, that they may live carefully and honestly in their vocations;—*for the prosperous education of youth* in all universities and schools, that they may answer the ends of their pious founders and benefactors. We humbly beseech Thee to hear us *for our enemies* especially those that hate us without cause, that they may be converted:—*for those that commend themselves to, and desire our prayers*, and whose affairs and troubles will not suffer them to pray as they ought; that Thou wouldst hear us for them, and be gracious unto them;—*for all that are in affliction of body or mind*, that they may make the best use of thy fatherly corrections;—*for all who are in danger or in want, in prison, or condemned to death*; especially for all those who suffer for the testimony of a good conscience, that Thou wouldst give them strength to bear, and patience under their afflictions and persecutions, and an happy issue out of them.

Hear us, O Father, for all these estates and conditions of men, and hear the prayers of all others for us, and let both their's and our's be acceptable in thy sight, for the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

In a sober confidence that Thou hearest us, we commit ourselves, and all that belong to us, to thy watchful providence this night; and when we shall not be able to think how to defend ourselves from the least misfortune that may assault us, we depend upon Thee, O God, and on thy protection. Suffer us not to sleep in sin, but watch over us, and defend us under the shadow of thy wings. Let not our sleep be excessive or immoderate, but raise us in due time, that we may serve and praise Thee joyfully; enter upon our several employments and callings, and perform them justly; and seek thy kingdom earnestly.

May

May the neighbourhood wherein we live, and *especially this habitation*, be free from all accidents, from the violence of fire and from the designs and attempts of wicked men. And may we, who now implore thy protection, may we the next morning, in a sense of thy mercies to us, be as ready to praise thy holy name, thy power, and goodness; through Jesus Christ, in whose blessed name and words, we more confidently recommend ourselves and prayers to thy mercy, saying as he hath taught us,

Our Father, which art in Heaven; &c.

PRAYER to be used for a Sick Person.

O LORD, infinitely merciful, whose very corrections are the effects of thy love, give us grace to know, and hearts to consider this, that we may evermore thankfully receive thy fatherly corrections, and rejoice in the midst of the sorrows that encompass us, stedfastly believing, *that all things shall work together for good to those that fear God, and trust in his mercy.*

Gracious God, let it so happen unto this thy servant visited with thine hand, that *he* may take his afflictions patiently, and, with a dutiful submission to thy will, bear whatever Thou shalt be pleased to lay upon *him*; that the disorders of *his* body [or mind] may contribute to the health of *his* soul; that being made perfect through sufferings, *he* may be owned by his blessed Saviour, who through great afflictions entered into glory.

To this end, we beseech Thee to enlighten *his* mind, that *he* may understand thy dealings with *him*, and make that use of this visitation which Thou designedst by it.

Give *him* grace to know wherein *he* has offended, that *he* may endeavour to amend wherever *he* has done amiss; and give *him* a firm reliance on thy gracious promises, that *he* may not suffer either in body or mind, without the comforts of grace, and the hopes of being beloved of Thee.

Deliver

Deliver *him*, O God from the danger of impatience, distrust, or despair ; from the illusions and assaults of the powers of darkness ; and from all anguish or affliction, which may any way draw *his* mind from Thee.

Enable *him* to wait with patience thy good time, till Thou seeft fit to perfect *his* recovery. And in the mean time, blefs all the good endeavours which fhall be used for *his* health and comfort.

Lay upon *him* no greater burthen than Thou fhalt enable him to bear with Christian patience ; that others, feeing the powers and effects of true faith and trust in Thee, may learn to glorify Thee, and to submit to thy wife dispensations.

For Jesus Christ's fake, who by his merits has purchased pardon, and comforts, and grace, for all his faithful fervants, hear me, answer me, and let thy merciful kindness be upon thy fervant.

Give *him* patience under this trial, that *he* may bear it as becomes a disciple of Christ, considering that it is *his* cross, and laid upon *him* by thy appointment.

This must be thy gift, O God, for of ourselves we are nothing but weakness and sin ; this must be the effect of thy mercy to us.

Shew mercy therefore to thy fervant, O Lord ; have compassion on *him*, and help *him*.

Help *him*, O God, as Thou didst always help thy faithful fervants which called upon Thee in the time of trouble.

Above all things, give *him* grace, that with an entire submission *he* may resign *his* will to thine, remembering, that thy will is holy and just, and that it is our duty to receive and approve whatever is appointed by Thee.

For what are all our professions of being thy servants, if we complain and are not pleased that thy will be done with us ?

O give us grace to overcome the unwillingness of nature, and to make it yield to thy appointments.

Deal thus with this thy servant, O Lord, and do as thou knowest best for *him*; either relieve *him* in thy mercy, or mercifully enable *him* to bear this burthen with patience.

Grant this, O most merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

A short and necessary INSTRUCTION for the LORD'S DAY in the Morning.

THE Lord, who has blessed *one day in seven*, blesteth all those that keep it holy: And very terrible have been his judgments upon them that have profaned it.

It is your duty, therefore, *on this good day*, to lay aside, as much as possible, all worldly business, all worldly thoughts, all worldly pleasures, that you may honour your Creator to the best of your power—by owning your dependance upon him, by hearing his word and his Commands—by asking his blessings, and giving him thanks for his favours.

If then it is our interest, and our happiness, to serve God, it is our duty to be at his House before his service begins; to shew that we fear his Majesty, and dare not offer him *a lame sacrifice*; to shew, that we do indeed desire his blessing, and take delight in serving him.

When therefore you come into the House of God, and first kneel down, *say secretly this short prayer* :—

A short Prayer at your coming into Church.

“MAY the good spirit of God dispose me unto, and assist me in, his service! The Lord give us all a true and lively sense of our wants, and of his mercy and presence amongst us, that we may serve him with our hear-

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as well as with our bodies, and that our prayers may be heard for the sake of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord!
Amen.

After this, attend diligently to what is said and prayed for; remembering that they are your prayers which are offered up to God; but that you have no share in them if you do not mind what is asked in your name.

That your heart may go along with your prayers, say softly *Amen,—so be it,—*to every petition. This is what the most unlearned may do, and it may be the most learned cannot do better, to keep their minds intent upon what they are about.

When you *confess your sins*, do it with great seriousness and concern, remembering, that you are for ever undone if you are not forgiven. And then hear with comfort upon what condition God will pardon you: If you *repent, and believe the Gospel*, you are sure to be forgiven.

When the *Word of God* is read or preached, be careful to mind it, that you may know your duty, and the reward of doing it; that you may observe the way of God's dealing with mankind, in punishing the wicked, and in protecting and rewarding the righteous; that you may know the manner of our redemption, and the great Love of God in bringing it to pass; that you may see the dangers you are liable to, and the blessedness that is set before you; ever remembering that *Faith, without which we cannot please God, cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.*

And be sure to behave yourself with great *reverence and devotion*, while you are in the House and presence of God; for it, when you should be on your knees, asking God's pardon and blessings, or standing to praise the Creator of Heaven and Earth; if, instead of doing so, you sit and sleep away the time, or carelessly gaze, and think of other matters, then you will return from God's House with a curse and not with a blessing.

And yet the very best of us, after all our care, have

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cause to beg pardon even for the faults of our devotions. Therefore, before you rise from your knees, say privately this short Prayer.

A short Prayer before you leave the Church.

“**THE** good Lord accept of our duty and service; pardon our sins and infirmities; give us what is needful for our souls and for our bodies; and keep us evermore under thy protection, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour! *Amen.*”

And now, God forbid that you should spend the remainder of this good day, so well begun, in sin and vanity! Rather think how you may do most honour to your Creator and Redeemer.

If you can read, you can both instruct yourself, and them that will hear you.

If you have children and servants, you can teach them how to fear, and to love, and to pray to God.

And if you are unlearned, you can think of what you have heard at Church, and resolve to do, to the best of your knowledge, as you have been taught.

Then will the Lord be with you to bless you in the way you go; to preserve and to prosper you: For this is what he hath declared, *Them that honour me, I will honour; and they that despise me, shall be lightly esteemed.**

A Prayer for SUNDAY MORNING.

O LORD, who hast consecrated this day to thy service, give us grace so to observe it, that it may be the beginning of an happy week to us; and that none of thy judgments may fall upon us for profaning it,

Fix in our hearts this great truth, *that here we have no abiding place*, that we may seriously and timely provide

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for another life ; and grant that this great concern may make us very desirous to learn our duty, and to do what Thou requirest of us.

And blessed be God, that we have Churches to go to, that we have such times set apart for the more public worship of our Creator, and that we have Pastors to teach us!—The Lord prosper their labours, and give us grace to profit by them, that they and we may enjoy an everlasting Sabbath with thy Saints in Heaven, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

A plain and useful Instruction for SUNDAY EVENING.

Concerning the Providence of God, or his Wisdom and Goodness in governing the World.

THAT God is great, and to be greatly feared, we know by the world he hath made, and from his dreadful judgments.

That God is good, and to be loved and worshipped, we are convinced from his care of the whole creation. *For his tender mercies are over all his works.**

Therefore have his creatures the comfort of the rain and sun, of food and shelter ; the earth yields increase, and the seas are stored with creatures innumerable.

In the hand of God are these and all other blessings, which he withholds or giveth, according to his good pleasure, to teach us, that we wholly depend upon him ; *that man liveth not by bread alone, nor by his own industry, but by the providence of God, who ordereth all conditions of life for the best, for those that cannot chuse for themselves.*

And if he suffers some to be poor, it is because that con-

* PSALM cxlv. 9.

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dition is best for them *now* ; but he will make them a great amends in the next world for what they want in this if they will be content and honest, neither murmur at their own lot, nor envy that of others

*When God giveth riches, it is not to make them an occasion of our ruin, but to try our virtue ; for, if we are not high-minded ; if we trust not in uncertain riches, but in the living God ; if we do good with them, and readily distribute to the necessity of others ; then are riches a real blessing, and help to bring us to eternal life.**

If the bringing us into affliction, it is not that he is pleased with the miseries of his creatures, but he is shewing them their transgression, he is opening their ear to discipline, that they may return from iniquity, and save their souls from death eternal.†

If he suffers us to be tempted, it is not that we might fall, but to make us more sensible of our own weakness, that we may come to him for help, on whom we depend ; who will not suffer us to be tempted above what we are able to bear ; and who will reward our poor endeavours with unspeakable happiness.

If we have *Friends*, it is the favour of God to us ; and if we have *Enemies*, they are rods in his hands, either to correct us or to make us careful of our ways.

The Devil himself, that powerful spirit, is under God's command, to excuse his judgments upon wicked men, while they that trust in the Lord have nothing to fear, for he hath no power to hurt them.

Happy are we, who know these things now ; and we shall be for ever happy if we live according to this belief :

For then we shall trust in the Lord with all our heart, and not lean unto our own understanding.

We shall call upon him for what we want, and thankfully receive what he is pleased to send. For shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?‡

* 1 TIM. vi. † JOB xxxvi. 9, ‡ JOB ii. 10.

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We shall hope for his favour when we mean well, and never expect his blessing when our designs are evil.

We shall look upon God's time as the best, and not grow impatient when our desires are not answered.

We shall acknowledge his hand in every thing that befalleth us, and hope for his mercy even when he is angry, knowing, *that all things shall work together for good to them that love God* * Thus shall we dwell under the defence of the most high, and shall be secure from fear of evil.

A Prayer for SUNDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, by whom all things were made, and are preserved, give us hearts to know, and grace to consider this, that we may cheerfully commit ourselves, and all that belongs to us, to thy merciful care; that we may ever look up to Thee for what we want; be thankful for thy favours; never resist thy dealings with us, or neglect the means of grace which thy providence affords us.

Blessed be God, who giveth us what is ever best for us; who keepeth us from dangers and hath provided for us better than all our works can deserve! The good Lord make us mindful of our duty, that as we often hear how we ought to walk, and to please God, we may continue to do so unto our lives end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Another Prayer for SUNDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, by whom all things were made and preserved, make us truly thankful.—for thy wonderful works of *Creation*;—for thine adorable *Providence* in preserving every thing that Thou hast made;—and for thine infinite *power, wisdom, and goodness*, in the government of the world.

* ROM. viii. 28.

But

46 *Instruction for Sunday Evening.*

But above all, we acknowledge thine infinite love in the *Redemption* of the world, by thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ; and thy goodness in sending by him this comfortable message to thy distressed creatures—*That whosoever receiveth and believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting Life.*

We bless Thee for his holy *Doctrine* and *Example*:—and for his precious *Death* and glorious *Resurrection*. by which our sad condition, and thine unspeakable love, have been wonderfully shewn to us.

We give Thee thanks for thy *Holy Word*, by which thy works of mercy and providence have been preserved, and thy will made known unto mankind.

We bless thy Holy Name, for sanctifying *one day in seven* to thy service, to keep up the knowledge and remembrance of Thee, and of our *Creation* and *Redemption*;—and for appointing thy *Ministers* to publish these truths to us in thy name, that we may render unto Thee that *honour, love, and obedience*, which becometh creatures to pay to their great Creator.

And we beseech Thee, O God, to give us all such a deep and lasting sense of thy great and undeserved mercies to us, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may shew forth thy praise, not only with our *lips*, but in our *lives*, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days.

And as often as we hear how we ought to walk, and to please God, that we may continue to do so unto our lives end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*A short ADMONITION to All, and especially to
Masters of Families.*

AMONG the many growing vices of this profane age, one wretched and ungodly custom is too common; namely, of people falling to their meals, as beasts do to their fodder, without any thoughts of God, or thanks for his blessings.*—And even too many of those who have not quite laid aside this Christian duty, perform it after such a slight and negligent manner, as makes it as sinful as the omission.

When a man, like ourselves, bestows a favour, we naturally give him thanks. Art not food, and the supports of life and health, mighty blessings? Is not God the sole Giver of these? Are they not worth asking, and giving Thanks for?—This shews plainly, that this sin, being against the very natural notions of sense and gratitude, is of the Devil, who makes the tables of too many to become a snare and a curse to them, by intemperance, gluttony, and drunkenness.

* Grace before Meals, the practice of the ROMANS.

NEC PRIUS AUT EPULAS, AUT MUNERA GRATA LYCET,
FAS CUIQUAM TETIGISSE FUIT, QUAM MULTA PRECATUS
IN MENSAM Sil. Italicus.

- Nor touch'd the Meat, nor tasted was the Wine,
- Till ev'ry Guest implor'd the Pow'rs Divine.

All Christians who have any regard to the example of their Saviour, who always glorified God, and gave him public thanks for his blessings;—or to the example of *St. Paul*, who would not omit this duty, though in bonds, and in the presence of a numerous company of Heathens:—All Christians, seeing the reasonableness of this duty, and the sin of omitting it, or of not performing it after a serious manner, will be inexcusable before God, if they neglect to glorify him at their daily meals.

Now

Now, that the most unlearned may not want words to express their thanks, and beg God's blessing upon themselves, and their daily food, these following may be made use of :——

GRACE before our Meals.

O GOD, who giveth food unto all flesh, grant that we may receive these thy gifts with thy blessing, and use them with sobriety and thankful hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

GRACE after our Meals.

MAKE us truly thankful, O Lord, for our daily bread, and for all other mercies which we receive: And help us to love and serve Thee, the Giver of all good, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

